

CG-04-00

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) OF 1969, AS AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a national policy encouraging productive and enjoyable harmony between man and the environment. Toward this purpose, the NEPA mandate compels federal agencies and their departments to make informed decisions by requiring consideration of all relevant environmental consequences of proposed actions and by involving the public in the decision-making process. White Sands Missile Range complies with NEPA by adhering to its specific requirements, Army Regulation 200-2: Environmental Effects of Army Actions, and other related federal and state statutes.

Environmental stewardship is an integral part of White Sands Missile Range's military mission. Weapon system testing and evaluation and training have the potential to directly and indirectly, negatively, as well as positively, impact the environment. Because of the potential for unintended environmental damage and the responsibilities inherent in good environmental stewardship, this Command shares responsibility for the following:

- a. The protection of human health and the environment;
- b. The sustainable development and use of the natural, cultural, and other resources entrusted to us; and
- c. Working with our neighbors to promote the stewardship of resources of regional importance.

A main objective of NEPA is improving decision-making through systematic consideration of potential environmental impacts of proposed actions and alternatives. The NEPA process employed on White Sands Missile Range utilizes a systematic, interdisciplinary approach, ensuring integrated engineering and physical, natural, and social sciences planning, and healthy participation of neighboring communities to evaluate actions, which may impact the environment. White Sands Missile Range integrates NEPA compliance within the overall environmental program and throughout the test, evaluation, and training mission and base operations planning and execution processes.

I strongly encourage all Army White Sands Missile Range civilian and military, tenant, and contractor personnel to continue protecting and enhancing the environment of “America’s Range” into the 21st Century, while providing for the world’s best weapon system testing and evaluation. We will continue to enthusiastically pursue environmental stewardship by utilizing a thorough interdisciplinary-team approach, in conjunction with community cooperation in our decision-making, planning, and operations.

For assistance in further integrating environmental stewardship into your activities, contact the Directorate of Environment and Safety, at 678-2224/7863.

STEVEN W. FLOHR
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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